

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number  
63/52

USGS Quad  
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number  
1031



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 1 Berwick Road

Historic Name Percy Irvine House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1908

Source Lexington Minute-man, 5/30/1908

Style/Form Shingle Style/Dutch Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim wood shingle/vinyl siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1980 - vinyl siding  
on all but facade

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 16,081 SF

Setting early 20th c. residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April-May 2000

## BUILDING FORM (1 Berwick Road)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Located at the northeast corner of Berwick Road and Hayes Avenue, 1 Berwick Road is an early 20th century residence that combines elements of the Shingle Style and the Dutch Colonial styles. The two-story dwelling rests on a rubble foundation and is capped by an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof with a two-story, gambrel-roofed wing to the east. The house was originally sheathed in wood shingles; all but the principal facade have been covered in vinyl siding. On the north, three-bay wide facade of the main house the gambrel roof displays a pronounced overhang which is embellished by exposed braces with end knobs. The center entrance is fronted by a projecting entrance porch supported by two pairs of bulbous Doric columns. The original door has been replaced by a modern four-panel door with built-in upper lights. On either side of the entrance is a set of three doublehung windows displaying diamond-paned upper sashes over a single pane lower sash. The entire facade, including the wing is fronted by a wooden deck with a stick balustrade, knobbed newel posts and a latticed airspace. The front roof slope of the main block is spanned by a shed dormer; the wing has a one-bay, shed-roofed dormer. Centered over the entrance, a hip-roofed projection emerges with a diamond-paned window flanked by leaded geometric doublehung sash. The predominant window on the house is the doublehung window with diamond-paned upper sash. Multi-light hinged windows are visible on the rear porch projection at the west end.

The 16,081 square foot lot is level and includes large pine trees at the corner and additional pine trees screening the west end with maples along the street. A brick walk leads to the front door. A driveway along the east end of the house terminates at a hip-roofed garage with two individual overhead doors. The garage is sheathed in wood shingles and displays exposed rafters.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The land on which this house sits (Lot 60 of the Oakmount Park subdivision) was sold by the Oakmount Park Trustees to Caroline A. Harrington in 1907. According to a brief mention appearing in the *Lexington Minute man* on May 30, 1908, Harrington sold the lot to Percy Irvine who planned to build an attractive house with a gambrel roof and shingled sides. In 1909 Irvine was assessed for a house valued at \$5,400 situated on Lot 60 of the Oakmount Park subdivision. Irvine was an insurance agent who worked in Boston and apparently lived in the house for only a short time.

By 1913 the house was occupied by Edward Sawyer, who was in the lumber business in Cambridge. His widow, Dora continued to own the house into the 1930s. Later owners include Elton McCausland (c.1940-1950) and Roswell & Julia Farnham (c.1960+).

Prior to the mid 1930s this house was known as 2 Berwick Road.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
*Lexington Minute-man*, 7/6/1907; 5/30/1908.  
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
1 Berwick Road  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

	1031
--	------

